

The Home Run

Greyhound Rescue of N.E.

Greyhounds Waiting to Go Home

Winter 2016

Season's Greetings from GRNE's Kennel

It's time again to write the newsletter as we look forward to our 18th year. It's been a wonderful and yet stressful year, our main challenge is now is getting in the needy Greyhounds looking for a place "to land". Whereas Greyhound racing has ended in New England, we turn our attention to the Florida race tracks. We are so pleased to be able to help save these Florida Greyhounds that previously had nowhere to go. But it's harder logistically and financially. With your help we built our isolation room this year to help bring these dogs in while meeting State regulations of quarantine. Once a month, Greyhounds are transported north and picked up by Greyhound adoption groups along the way. We have been getting our dogs from stops in Conn. and Maine. But we have not been able to pick up as many as the kennel can hold using Diane's 11 year old small car. What to do? To be efficient, and save as many dogs as possible, **we need a mini-van so we can transport**



these dogs to the kennel. Right now we are picking them up 2 at a time and this is not enough dogs to meet our adoption needs at the kennel. We can save more dogs with a mini-van.



We have researched used vans and the one that seems most logical is a used Toyota Sienna. This van has a huge cargo space, the seats are removable, and it will hold 4 dog crates at a time. It also has All Wheel Drive which is useful in New England winters. A 3-4 year old Sienna is approximately \$23,000.

This is our current need, and fundraising request. We do need your usual year end donation to help with winter expenses. As always, all our supporters come through at year end and we continue. We're now asking for a little added donation to help fund a van.

We thank all of you in advance for any and all help and contributions. We continue saving Greyhounds together.

Happy Holidays and hugs from all our Hounds,
Diane

Meet Kathy Estridge:

Kathy is another one of those silent supporters that is continuously available to help. She's been with us since the beginning, assisting with fundraising. She helps with giant endeavors like grant-writing and small things, like a fundraiser cook out! She's put together so many fundraisers from making pocketbooks, quilts, dog coats, pizza night fundraiser to running our car donation program.....too many to mention. Kathy is a sweet, compassionate friend who is working intensely, in the background to help keep us going. Sometimes I wonder where the money will come from and people like Kathy step up. Kathy sincerely cares deeply, and we are so grateful.



Ways You Can Help:

- **Donate your Car to GRNE!** Call the kennel for details.
- **We are always in need of:** Bleach, pine sol, stamps, gift certificates to Walmart or Target
- **Include Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc. in your will...**
bequests to GRNE will assure we can continue saving dogs.
- **Amazon** has a program where they will donate .5% of your purchase to Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc. When you're ready to order, go into Amazon with www.smile.amazon.com and select Greyhound Rescue of New England as your donation choice. This is a wonderful way to help greyhounds here at the kennel!
- **Donate to Greyhound Rescue through our PayPal link on our web page**
www.greyhoundrescuene.org
- **Set up Recurring Donation Payments thru PayPal** which is a wonderful way to fund GRNE on an ongoing basis as bills come in through our Donate button on www.greyhoundrescuene.org
- **State Employees – This is for you:**
State employees can now make charitable contributions to Greyhound Rescue of N.E. through the Commonwealth of MA Employees Charitable Campaign (COMECC). COMECC is the annual fund-raising program that enables employees to make a bi-weekly payroll deductions, or a one-time contribution. Enrollment for 2015 is conducted in the fall (2014), and payroll deductions begin in January.
- **Foster a Greyhound for 2-4 weeks.** You would work with the dog, transitioning them into "home life" and getting a "feel" for their personality. This helps assure a successful placement as well as freeing up a crate in the kennel to save another dog. Call the kennel for details.

All donations are tax deductible – non-profit #04-3461361

Cooper's Life Story...

I first met Riff Raff when he was about two years old, so that would be about 2008. I was fostering for GRNE and while going back to return a dog and get another one, Diane and I decided it would be Riff Raff's turn to try out living in a house as a member of a family. Riff Raff turned out to be a nice, gentle soul. I only had Riff Raff for a couple of weeks before it was time for him to go back to the kennel and meet a prospective adopting couple. It seemed like a good fit, at the time, but eventually as we found out that was not to be. After four years of living in his new home, it was decided Riff Raff would be returned.

Lots of things had happened in the four years and I was often called upon to try to figure out what was going on with him. It was a long, drawn out scenario and Diane and I thought the best thing would be for Cooper (now his new name) to be returned. There was a question of his eyesight being very bad and because of that, Cooper was returned. He was brought back to me and stayed with me with the promise of going to an eye specialist to see what was wrong. Now, bear in mind, since this dog was two years old, he was just an ordinary dog, going along his merry way, getting along outside and in the house with no problems at all. Who would've thought? He fooled everyone! The eye specialist said that Cooper was totally blind.....couldn't see a thing. He had retinol degeneration, for which there is no surgery to correct it...nothing could be done. I didn't like that diagnosis and didn't really like this specialist, so I was going to prove him wrong. I took Cooper to yet another specialist, with someone I trusted. Bummer. Same diagnosis, however, this specialist thought he could see "shadows". Well, so did I, he proved it to me every day.

So, Diane and I discussed what would we do with Cooper....would I keep him or send him back to the kennel? Cooper had a special place in my heart, as I fostered him and after he was displaced, how could I send him back? Diane said, "I can find a really good home for him", I agonized over it, lots of tears and hugs to Cooper trying to decide what to do. I really didn't need another dog, I had seven as it was and Cooper was a BIG boy and I really didn't have the room. I tried to rationalize it to myself, thinking if I were to return



him to the kennel, I'd be doing the same thing his previous home did. I just couldn't do it. Yeah, you guessed it.....I kept him here with us.

At this point, Cooper is six and as we started our new life together, with the awful diagnosis, he got himself acclimated to my house and his new

doggie friends. As we lived with him for quite a while and saw what a gentle giant he was, I often said to my husband, "how could anyone not love this dog?" I thought he would make a great therapy dog, so I started my search to find out how to do this.



As it turned out, Diane knew someone that had a greyhound doing therapy work, so I got in touch with her. She directed me to Pets & People Foundation where I started the process of getting Cooper certified for therapy work. I had no idea if they would consider him with his blindness, but they encouraged me to go for it. So, we did! We did our orientation in the summer of 2014 and then the testing in October of 2014 and low and behold, Cooper passed the test! I couldn't have been more proud and happy with how Cooper proved to everyone how wonderful a dog he really is and his blindness doesn't hold him back from anything, well almost anything. He doesn't run and play with the other dogs, he just mozies along while they play around him.

Cooper and I started visiting an Adult Day Care in the area. We found out how much people loved Cooper (no surprise, there) and he really enjoyed visiting and getting lots of pats and love. Several months after that we took on a nursing home in Uxbridge, where the residents just loved him and he loved them. During that time, we also visited colleges in the area that did "de-stressing" for the students, right before exam time. A program where several teams go and the students come and visit each team to attempt to calm the students during a hectic and stressful time for them.

I found out through another team, that the therapy dogs can also be part of a program at your local library, where children read to dogs! This was very intriguing to me, so I inquired at our local library and the woman in charge of the children's program was so thrilled that I had approached her, as she wanted to do this, but had no idea where to begin to get a program like this started. We got the wheels in motion and in October of 2015, the program started at the Douglas Public Library being called "Reading to Cooper". Cooper goes once a month, where children pick out a story and read to him. Cooper loves this as well and sometimes will fall asleep! The library is thrilled that this program took off and we are booked several months in advance!

Cooper now has a purpose and it is very rewarding for me to watch him doing his work.

So, here's the moral of this story. Greyhounds are amazing, beautiful creatures. Even with disabilities, don't count them out.....there is a lot out there for them to do.

Jean Riganati



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Please Help Us Help the Greyhounds

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of N.E., Inc.
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All donations
are tax deductible!

Foster Homes

are always needed. You can help save a Greyhound's life by fostering for 2-4 week period. This will free up a crate in the kennel and we can save another dog. Then you tell us something about the dog's personality, making placement easier.

Board Your Greyhound

We can board up to six Greyhounds at a time here at the kennel. They'll have fun socializing with other Greyhounds in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. We

book up quickly, so let us know as soon as you need to board. We will cater to your Greyhound's every need!



New Boarding Fee effective 1/1/14: Each dog: \$30 per day

We book up quickly so let us know as soon as you need to board!